

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 30, No. 9

September 15, 1962

Whole No. 360



## DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 37

### MOTOR STORIES

Published by Street & Smith, 32 issues, February 27, 1909, to October 2, 1909. 8x11, 32 pages with colored cover. New stories written by William Wallace Cook under the pseudonym Stanley R. Mathews. Reprinted in New Medical Library with authorship ascribed to the pseudonym Donald Grayson. Further reprinted in Adventure Library and Alger Series. Some stories were reprinted in the late issues of Brave and Bold.

## Young Diamond Dick

By J. Edward Leithead

(continued from last issue)

There were Indian stories, too. From a 1905 issue of Diamond Dick, Jr., announcing what was in store for the reader "next week" (probably this was Editor Frank E. Blackwell, long at the helm of Street & Smith's 5c weeklies): "Indian uprisings are not altogether a thing of the past, nor were they when young Diamond Dick and Handsome Harry managed their railroad in Pocomo. Now and then a few 'bucks' would leave their reservations and attack miners, cattlemen and farmers who had settled at a distance from towns . . . How young Diamond Dick went forth on one of these expeditions against a band of marauding Yaquis makes a thrilling story. It is told in the next of the series of 'Diamond Dick,' No. 469, 'Diamond Dick on the Warpath, or, A Brush With Yaquis in Arizona' . . . Dick came near 'losing his hair' in this adventure, but saved it by his ready wit and indomitable courage. How he did it makes one of the best chapters you ever read in a Western story . . ."

It was one of many with Dick and pards at grips with Indians; some others—#520, Diamond Dick Holds the Fort, or, Hot Work Along the Big River, #523, Diamond Dick's Midnight Stampede, or, The Horse Thieves of the Cimarron (the thieves were Red

Wolf's Cheyennes), #535, Diamond Dick on an Indian Trail, or, The Vengeance of a Navajo (Dick at the torture stake), #556, Diamond Dick's Indian Ally, or, The Serpent Trail of the Apache, #560, Diamond Dick's Cross of Fire, or, The Ghost Dancers of Dog Canyon, #566, Diamond Dick's Sacred Trust, or, The Council Fire of the Big Horn, #570, Diamond Dick's Northwest Trail, or, The Lone Hunter of Hudson Bay.

I mentioned earlier that young Diamond Dick eventually returned to the frozen north for further adventures: it was Jenks who took him there in #466, Diamond Dick in the Klondike, or, The Crazy Croesus of the Yukon, #467, Diamond Dick's Call to Time, or, The Mystery of Chilkoot Pass, #484, Diamond Dick in the Frozen North, or, The Ice King of Old Winnipeg, #485, Diamond Dick in the Traitor's Camp, or, The Conspiracy of the Saskatchewan, #544, Diamond Dick in the Deep Snows, or, A Close Call on the Yukon, #545, Diamond Dick's Merciless Trail, or, The Two Rascals of White Horse. Nor was it the last time Dick and pards invaded the snow country; it cast a spell on William Wallace Cook and W. Bert Foster when they took up the "Diamond Dick" pen, Cook for the second time in his writing career.

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Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.



Street & Smith staff artists Marmaduke Russell and Edward Johnson, joined by Charles L. Wrenn and F. A. Carter, week after week pictured the chief characters of the Diamond Dick series in very tight corners. I think no weekly had more thrilling covers than this one, up to the time when all the pictorial wrappers of the S. & S. weeklies were toned down, though now and then they'd break out an extra good one. Once the eye had always been greeted by startling scenes where rifles or revolvers smoked or the prairies or cabins were in flames, Indians hacked away with tomahawks or lifted scalps or war-hopped around a victim at the stake, bandits shot it out with manhunters after stage, train or bank robberies, rustlers, sometimes redskins instead of whites, stampeded cattle to pick them up ten miles away or swim the Rio Grande, wild-eyed men, women and horses struggled desperately for survival or to reach some goal. And the hero of the weekly, whoever he happened to be, was right out front (unless this was one of his unlucky days), striving with brain, gunskill and brawn to turn the tide in favor of less indomitable mortals. Later, toward the decline and end of these weeklies, the thrill of the older covers, that made you part with your nickel to see how your friends got out of it, was gone.

Apparently without a break, George C. Jenks had been serving up fast-moving Diamond Dicks from #430 through #600. #601 was Diamond Dick in the Canal Zone, or, Varola, the Voodoo King, and this not only opened a series of twelve yarns dealing with the adventures of Dick and Handsome Harry in Panama and South America, but also marked the return of William Wallace Cook as a writer for this weekly. All were good, and in unusual settings for dime novels, but these especially: #604, Diamond Dick's Spanish Doubloons, or, The Round-up of the Canal Thugs, #605, Diamond Dick's Panama Parads, or, Handsome Harry's Jamboree, #610, Diamond Dick's Desperate Detail, or, The Hounds of the Orinoco, #611, Dia-

mond Dick's Voyage of Mystery, or, The Shadows of the Amazon and #612, Diamond Dick's River Rats, or, The Rubber Hunters of La Paz. The young marshal and Handsome Harry came home to the U. S. A. in #613, Diamond Dick and the Dakota Dazzler, or, Up Against the Land Thieves, the title misprinted on some back cover title lists as Diamond Dick and the Dakota Blizzard.

Cook did a bang-up job for quite awhile on his return; in addition to the Panama-South America series, he wrote some outstanding stuff like #617, Diamond Dick on the Timber Trail, or, The Ordeal of Fire, #618, Diamond Dick and the Game-killers, or, The Pirates of Yellowstone Park, #619, Diamond Dick and the Night-riders, or, The Tragedy of the Wheat Lands, #620, Diamond Dick and the Ranch Rogues, or, Cowboy Against Settler, #621, Diamond Dick and the Diamond Baby, or, The Smugglers of the Canadian Border, #622, Diamond Dick and the Mounted Police, or, Duke Dashaway's Dash; then, suddenly, a few by Jenks: #625, Diamond Dick's Foundling, or, Foiling a Cowardly Plot, #626, Diamond Dick's Alkali Trail, or, Run to Earth in the Bad Lands, #627, Diamond Dick's Solid Shot, or, The Spies of the Pacific Fleet, #628, Diamond Dick's Wireless Signal, or, The Lone Bandit of the Sierras. It was Cook again with #629, Diamond Dick's Disappearance, or, The Rain-makers of Swinging Prairie. A couple more specially good ones by him were #637, Diamond Dick and the White Hawk Boomers, or, What Caused the Raid of Kicking Bird (F. A. Carter extended himself doing an extra fine cover for this) and #640, Diamond Dick's Snow-shoe Trail, or, When the Broken Circle Drifted (for which Charles L. Wrenn did a dandy cover).

Although the stories were by Jenks, Billy Doo and Belle Bellair didn't appear in #625 through #628 (and Cook NEVER used them), in fact, they had been appearing less frequently—why, it would be hard to say—before Jenks gave away to Cook. In #641, Diamond Dick's Mexican Quest, or, The Trail



of the Demon Vaquero, Billy shows up in strange guise. In #642, Diamond Dick's Aztec Captive, or, A Secret of Old Mexico, all four of the pardos are together again. In #643, Diamond Dick's Peon Pard, or, A Hand-to-Hand Fight for Diaz, Billy makes his last appearance, and Belle hers in the following number, 644, Diamond Dick's Matador Rival, or, A Treacherous Foe in the Bull Ring. I cannot discover that George C. Jenks ever wrote another line for Diamond Dick, Jr. Weekly.

Cook wrote three or four with a "frozen north" background, #654, Diamond Dick's Strangest Trail, or, The Big Man from Sitka, #655, Diamond Dick's Snow Rampart, or, A Fight for a Bride Below Zero, #656, Diamond Dick in the Frozen Hills, or, Putting the Clamps on a Bad Gang, #657, Diamond Dick's Raw Gold, or, The Game of the Lariats.

Somewhere along the line, John H. Whitson joined Cook in keeping young Diamond Dick going, for Cook was doing some Buffalo Bill Stories at the same time. It must have been a heavy writing schedule. And something had gone wrong with the stories; that it was due to a couple of veteran Western story writers, I can hardly believe; more likely a publisher's change of policy that didn't work out. Look at these unimaginative titles—#682, Diamond Dick Solves a Mystery, or, On the Trail of Job, #684, Diamond Dick on the Farm, or, The Mission of the Strangers, #685, Diamond Dick and the Dummy Deacon, or, On a Silent Trail, #685, Diamond Dick's Chase, or, On the Track of Charlie. Not like the snappy titles in the days of "Dashing Diamond Dick," eh? The "Old West" that Diamond Dick readers had been accustomed to was replaced by one we didn't recognize or relish, too modern, too tame (I was one of the 60,000 boys who read this weekly regularly)—I ask you once again to look at some titles, #710, Diamond Dick's Adroitness, or, The Mystery of Health Hotel, #713, Diamond Dick's Clever Play, or, Saving a Fortune to a Young Aeronaut, #714, Diamond Dick's Dory, or, Trolling for a Tartar. They didn't

need a fighting U. S. marshal in these later stories—Billy Doo, sixteen and pugnacious, could have handled the cases with one arm in a sling.

Maybe you remember a 10c Street & Smith periodical, Pete Rice Magazine, started as companion to The Shadow, Doc Savage and Nick Carter Magazines. Well, Pete Rice was patterned to some extent after the Diamond Dick tales—the type of Western used, that is, cattle feuds, rustling, holdup men, a wagon-load of gold that disappeared. Pete wasn't a U. S. marshal but a sheriff, and he chewed gum. He was too good to be true or to enjoy life—he didn't smoke, never took a drink, had no sweetheart nor apparently any intention of looking around for one. Added to this, the writer dragged telephones, automobiles and airplanes into the stories. Of all the four 10c magazines, Pete Rice had the shortest life.

In Diamond Dick tales above #644, Handsome Harry stuck by Dick. A couple of boys, Jock and Frank, were introduced—I don't see how either author, Cook or Whitson, thought up such colorless figures—and Frank became the Sarpint's adopted son. Dick took on a new and youthful partner, Jimmy Lang. It was not a change for the better, and the quality of the stories suffered. These newcomers weren't to be compared with the old favorites, Belle and Billy and Jack Sinn.

Marmaduke Russell no longer worked for Street & Smith, so Charles L. Wrenn and F. A. Carter did most of the later Diamond Dick covers, with an occasional one by Ed Johnson and Robert Emmet Owen. And then, when the stories had reached what I consider a new low, W. Bert Foster came to the rescue (or tried to), with a series about Dick and Harry in the Klondike: #739, Diamond Dick's Trail to Nome, #740, Diamond Dick's Wireless Trick, #741, Diamond Dick in a Perilous Path, #742, Diamond Dick's Dog Team, #743, Diamond Dick's Race Against Time, #744, Diamond Dick on the Yukon Flats, #745, Diamond Dick in Dawson, #746, Diamond Dick's Five Against Fifty, #747, Diamond Dick's



Lucky Clue. These were, perhaps, the best Klondike tales of all, the equal of any that had been done by writers of Diamond Dick tales, anyway. And Diamond Dick Weekly had published more stories with the Klondike and the Yukon Trail as background than any Street & Smith or Frank Tousey weekly except Klondike Kit Library and Young Klondike. I think the next nearest to these three with a high percentage of "frozen north" tales was Pluck and Luck.

Foster also had prepared an additional half dozen stories laid in the Southwest, #748, Diamond Dick and the Barrilla Apaches, #749, Diamond Dick and the Hoodooed Prospector, #750, Diamond Dick With the K-X Outfit, #751, Diamond Dick's Border Play, #752, Diamond Dick Smashes the Line, #753, Diamond Dick in the Line of Duty. All these were Foster top-notchers.

Either Cook or Whitson did the final nine issues of Diamond Dick, Jr., 754 through #762. Dick was hardly recognizable as the galloping young U. S. marshal of earlier stories, and above all, the stories by Jenks, which made him one of the most glamorous cowboy figures in dime novel history. Cook, at this time, was doing a better job with Buffalo Bill than Diamond Dick; very likely the end of the latter weekly had been in sight for some time, while the Buffalo Bill Stories were keeping up with Nick Carter and Tip Top Weeklies.

Diamond Dick, Jr., folded with #762 in 1911. An effort was made to revive the popularity of the Diamond Dicks, father and son, in 1927. A new S. & S. book format paperback library, the Great Western, started off reprinting a Diamond Dick tale in alternate issues.

Great Western #1 was entitled Diamond Dick's Own Brand, reprint of Diamond Dick, Jr., #239, Diamond Dick's Own Brand, #240, Diamond Dick's Go-As-You-Please, #241, Diamond Dick and the Mescal Fiend.

Great Western #3 was Diamond Dick's Maverick, reprint of Diamond Dick, Jr. #242, Diamond Dick's Split

Trick, #243, Diamond Dick's Maverick, #244, Diamond Dick's Notice to Quit.

Great Western #5 was Diamond Dick's Man Hunt, reprint of Diamond Dick, Jr., #245, Diamond Dick's Big Stake, #246, Diamond Dick's Pay Roll and #247, Diamond Dick's Man Hunt.

Great Western #7 was Diamond Dick's Danger Signal, reprint of Diamond Dick, Jr. #248, Diamond Dick in a New Deal, #252, Diamond Dick, Jr.'s Danger Signal, #253, Diamond Dick's Dark Case. #249, 250 and 251 were omitted, possibly because of the Eastern setting in two of them, Atlantic City, N. J. in #250 and New York City in #251.

Great Western #9 was Diamond Dick's Prospect, reprint of Diamond Dick, Jr. #254, Diamond Dick's Two-Call-Five, #255, Diamond Dick and the Renegades, #256, Diamond Dick's Prospect.

Great Western #11 was Diamond Dick and the Gold Bugs, reprint of Diamond Dick, Jr. #257, Diamond Dick and the Gold Bugs, #258, Diamond Dick's Clean-up, #259, Diamond Dick's Chase of the Card Sharps. These were stories of the Comet Mine and Comet City, which the Dicks and Handsome Harry cleaned of gamblers and thugs when this element tried to take over.

Great Western #13 was Diamond Dick at Comet City, reprint of Diamond Dick, Jr. #260, Diamond Dick's Still Hunt Underground, #261, Diamond Dick and the Kid-Glove Sport, #262, Diamond Dick's Strike at the Gold Mill. More about the Comet Mine and Comet City.

Great Western #15 was Diamond Dick and the Worthless Bonanza, reprint of Diamond Dick, Jr. #263, Diamond Dick's Lively Play on the Quiet, #264, Diamond Dick and the Backers of San Simon, #265, Diamond Dick's Rival and the Bogus Troopers, #266, Diamond Dick's Anti-Gun Crusade.

Great Western #17 was Diamond Dick's Black List, reprint of Diamond Dick, Jr., #267, Diamond Dick's Helping Hand, #268, Diamond Dick's Play to Win, #269, Diamond Dick on the Trail of the Smugglers, #270, Dia-



mond Dick and the Brothers of the Bowie.

Great Western #19 was Diamond Dick and the Indian Outlaw, reprint of Diamond Dick, Jr. #271, Diamond Dick's Blacklist, #272, Diamond Dick's Railroad Deal, #273, Diamond Dick's Set-to With the Keever Gang, #274, Diamond Dick and the Hannibal County Desperadoes, #275, Diamond Dick's Moonlight Attack. T. N. & P. Railroad stories.

Great Western #21 was Diamond Dick and Gentleman Jack, reprint of Diamond Dick, Jr. #276, Diamond Dick's Deadly Charge, #277, Diamond Dick on the Bean Trail, #279, Diamond Dick's Quick Action, #280, Diamond Dick's Fair Enemy. #278 was left out—the setting was Chicago.

Great Western #23 was Diamond Dick at Secret Pass, reprint of Diamond Dick, Jr. #281, Diamond Dick and the Express Robbers, #282, Diamond Dick's Four of a Kind, #310 Diamond Dick, Jr. at the O. K. Trestle (reprint of #21) and #311, Diamond Dick, Jr.'s, Big Clean-up (reprint of #26).

Great Western #25 was Diamond Dick's Red Trailer, reprint of Diamond Dick, Jr. #386, Diamond Dick to the Front, #387, Diamond Dick's Red Trailer, #388, Diamond Dick and the Bullfighter.

That ended the Diamond Dick reprints. All issues of Great Western above #25 were Buffalo Bill reprints.

The End

### NOTE

Round-Up members who have a chance to see "Railroads In The Days of Steam," one of the books recently issued by The American Heritage in their Junior Library, should especially read the Chapter on the Wild West, beginning on page 72. It has mention of Dime Novels and on page 80, there is a cut of the first issue of the Jesse James Stories, No. 1, published by Street & Smith, and dated May 11, 1901.

The small "cut" is in full colors, and is a replica of the issue that

Street & Smith reprinted in December 1938, at the time of the showing of the "movie," JESSE JAMES, produced by Darryl F. Zanuck, and starring Tyrone Power, Henry Fonda, Nancy Kelly, Randolph Scott and others.

What was on the back cover of the original copy of this novel is not known to this writer, but this reprint, on the back cover, has a list of the cast of characters, photos of the principals in the movie, a train robbery, and other scenes. A mighty interesting novel and a valued one.

—Gerald J. McIntosh

### NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings

Ed Ingraham is hot after the Jesse Stuart books. Anyone have any, if so better send him a list, as he has some already. He only needs 2 Comrades Weekly to complete his set of them, nos. 14 and 19. Who will help him?

### EXCHANGE COLUMN

Wanted — Argosy magazine, 1913 through 1917, All Story Magazine, 1905, 1914 and 1915, Cavalier Magazine, 1914; All Story Cavalier Magazine, 1914 and 1915. Wide Awake Magazine, 1915 and 1916; Munsey's Popular Series and Leather Clad Tales. Samuel Olnhausen, 824 Chester Ave., East Liverpool, Ohio.

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 231. Carl W. Breihan, 4939 Mattis Road, St. Louis 23, Mo. (New Member)  
 190. Ronald Gottesman, 825 East Hunter Ave., Bloomington, Ind. (New Add.)

## THREE MORE BIBLIOGRAPHIC LISTINGS ISSUED

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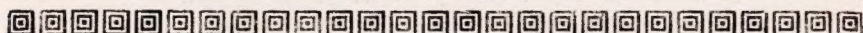
8	Bright Days, by Capt. C. G. Mayo	.50
9	Golden Hours (English Edition), by Denis R. Rogers	.50
10	Street & Smith's Literary Album, by C. G. Mayo	.50

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1	Golden Days, by Donald L. Steinhauer	2.00
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Columbia Library — Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17.

Medal Library — Nos. 341, 353, 369, 384, 525, 541, 607, 616.

New Medal Library — Nos. 556, 568, 579.

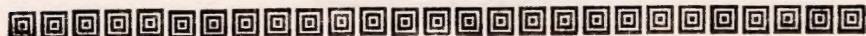
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 Wide Awake Library #35, 138, 542. Average. The lot, \$3.  
 N. Y. Detective Library #16, 42, 234. Average. The lot, \$3.  
 Boys of New York #787 to 794. Fair, poor, average. The lot, \$3.  
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 Beadle's Half-Dime Library #23, 40, 88 (Stamped). The lot, \$3.  
 Pluck and Luck #627, 690, 720. Average. The lot, \$3.  
 Fame & Fortune #77, 83, 203, 221, 241. Average. The lot, \$3.  
 Old Cap Collier (10c edition) #155, 176. Good. The lot, \$3.  
 Beadle's Dime Library #3, 58, 1085. Average. The lot, \$3.  
 Work and Win #7, 10, 11, 16. Average. The lot, \$3.  
 Boys Best Weekly #36, 44, 45, 48. Good-average. The lot, \$3.  
 Wild West Weekly #134, 137, 148, 153, 166, 375. Fair. Lot, \$3.  
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